

Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

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Budget, Finance & Taxes

US Congress Approves Fiscal Year 2002 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill

Congress finally cleared the fiscal year 2002 emergency supplemental appropriations bill in July, four months after President Bush submitted his initial request to Capitol Hill. The legislation (**HR4775**) which provides funds for domestic security and the nation's defense, contains a number of potential funding opportunities for state and local governments.

The supplemental appropriations measure includes a number of provisions of direct interest to local governments. Of particular importance to counties, the final spending

bill provides federal dollars for emergency management planning and assistance, including \$100 million for state and local all hazards operational planning. The bill also includes \$150 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) fire grant program as authorized by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

In addition, the measure provides \$50 million for interoperable communications equipment for firefighters and emergency medical services, \$56 million for emergency operations centers, \$5 million for the development of mutual aid agreements and \$7 million for the procurement of secure communications equipment.

Courts, Law & Justice

Justice Information Group Has Position for Commissioner/Councilmember

The state Criminal Justice Information Act (CJIA) Executive Committee has a position available for a county commissioner or councilmember.

The CJIA Executive Committee oversees the Justice Information Network (JIN) and is the entity responsible for developing statewide policies and planning associated with sharing criminal justice information among courts, police, corrections, and other criminal justice agencies. The committee is authorized by the state Criminal Justice Information Act, RCW 10.98.160, enacted in 1984 to facilitate implementation of the 1981 Sentencing Reform Act. More information is available at www.wa.gov/dis/jin.

The CJIA Executive Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at the state Department of Information Services building.

The WSAC Board of Directors will make the appointment to the CJIA Executive Committee. The term of service is open-ended. Please send letters of interest by No-

vember 8 to WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at sbyrd@wacounties.org.

State Does Not Appeal in Judges Benefits Case

In a victory for counties, the state of Washington is not appealing the trial court's ruling that counties are not responsible for paying any portion of fringe benefits for Superior Court judges. The appeal period ended October 12.

The nine plaintiff counties in Thurston County et al v. State soon will receive reimbursement for the benefits payments they made during the current biennium. The timeline for this reimbursement is not clear, but the state Attorney General's office and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) are working out the mechanics and will notify WSAC of the process. The state's attorney has said that sufficient funds exist in the current AOC budget to cover reimbursements for these nine counties. Special appropriation will not be necessary.

As for the other 30 non-party counties, the state's attorney has advised AOC that

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Courts, Law & Justice

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absent a court order the agency does not have authority to reimburse the non-party counties. AOC also does not have an adequate budget to do so even if it had authority to reimburse the non-party counties. The AG and AOC have said they will request that the 2003 Legislature reimburse the rest of the counties for payments made during the current biennium. Their rationale is that otherwise the state will be inviting more lawsuits, which the state will lose.

The Courthouse Journal

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

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FEMA Announces FY 2002 Emergency Management Funds

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced the availability of funds for FY 2002 for state and local all-hazards emergency operations planning; for the development or improvement of state and local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs); and further development of Citizen Corps, including funds for Citizen Corps Councils and for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

Counties are eligible for these funds as subgrantees of the Washington state Emer-

gency Management Division, which will provide application information to local agencies in the next few weeks. Both the state Emergency Management Council and the state Committee on Terrorism have recommended that the grants be structured on the same nine intrastate regions already used by the Department of Health for bioterrorism planning and grant funding. The intent is to further encourage multidisciplinary planning and cooperative mutual aid relationships to maximize the use of limited resources. For more information, contact Dan Staber, state EMD program manager, at 253-512-7068.

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources

Supreme Court Agrees to Rehear Moses Lake/Yakima Annexation Case

On Friday, October 11, the State Supreme Court granted motions by the cities of Moses Lake and Yakima for reconsideration of its decision invalidating the petition method of annexation in *Grant County Fire Protection District v. Moses Lake*.

The court's order granting the motions means only that the court has agreed to hear oral arguments and receive supplemental written briefs on whether to modify its decision. The order does not mean that the court has changed or will change its decision invalidating the petition method, although it may decide to do so, in whole or in part or to clarify it, after hearing the arguments pro and con. The date for oral argument has yet to be set, although it will be heard sometime during the court's winter term, which runs from January to March.

In the meantime, WSAC staff continues to negotiate with members of the Annexation Reform Coalition.

State Considers Guidebook to Aid Revision of Critical Areas Ordinances

County and city representatives met with state agency staff from the Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Community, Trade and Economic Development earlier this month to continue discussions over guidance for revision of critical areas ordinances to include

"best available science." In response to major concerns over a draft Model Critical Areas Ordinance that was proposed last spring, the state appears ready now to work with counties and cities in developing guidance about how to approach revision, but not suggest a model. In fact, the guidance will likely include many examples of how counties and cities have addressed critical areas protection, including both regulatory and non-regulatory programs.

Further discussions will take place, but are not yet scheduled. For more information, contact Paul Parker or Scott Merriman at WSAC.

Wheat Growers Invite Commissioners to Join Their Convention

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers is inviting county commissioners, mayors, port commissioners and other local government leaders to "Partnerships and Profitability," their upcoming convention in Spokane on December 7, 8 and 9. The convention committee is partnering with the Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development to put on a rural development program that will run concurrently with its convention on Sunday and Monday, December 8 and 9.

The rural development sessions include a Rural Resource Roundtable, "The Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment

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Strategy and the WA-CERT System” and “Seeking Rural Solutions: How Do We Work Together to Climb Out of the Hole We are In?” Also, an interactive panel discussion focusing on development successes in Lincoln County will provide information about how state and federal technical and financial assistance programs aided those efforts in Lincoln County, and what roles they can play in seeking rural solutions.

Convention registration is due by November 22 for the best price break. (The rural development track costs \$130.) Hotel registration should be in by November 8 for the special \$79 convention rate. Because the Wheat Growers room block is limited, do not wait to make reservations. To register, call Barbara Warden at WSAC for registration form.

Ecology Seeks New Water Quality Data

The Washington State Department of Ecology is seeking new water quality data from the public to be used for placing water bodies on the state's 303(d) list of impaired lakes, rivers, and bays. Ecology and EPA also are revising water quality standards (see below.)

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires Washington State periodically to prepare a list of all surface waters in the state where pollutants have impaired the beneficial uses of the water, such as for drinking, recreation, aquatic habitat and industrial use. Types of pollutants commonly found in Washington include fecal coliform, high temperatures, excess nutrients, low levels of dissolved oxygen and toxic substances. This list was last prepared in 1998. Ecology is now preparing the 2002 list.

Waters placed on the 303(d) list require the preparation of water cleanup plans - known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) - a key tool in the work to clean up polluted waters. TMDLs describe the type, amount, and sources of water pollution in a particular water body, analyze how much the pollution needs to be reduced or eliminated to achieve clean water, and provide strategies to control pollution. In addition, even before a TMDL is completed, the inclusion of a water on the 303(d) list can lead to Ecology requiring stricter pollution limits when

issuing permits for that water body.

Ecology's assessment of which waters to place on the 303(d) list is guided by federal laws, state water quality standards and the state's 303(d) policy. This policy was recently updated, and describes how the standards are applied, requirements for the data used and how to prioritize TMDLs, among other issues. The goal is to ensure that all impaired waters are identified and that no waters are mistakenly identified as impaired. The updated policy is found at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html.

Ecology is seeking new data right now, during a 60-day "call for data" period. If any data was submitted to Ecology previously - either for earlier 303(d) lists or other reasons - it does not need to be submitted again. All data received will be maintained by Ecology, and will be available to Ecology staff and the public. This will provide an opportunity for interested persons to use this data for future water quality and environmental protection efforts in addition to this assessment.

The deadline for submitting data is 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2002.

To submit water quality data, please e-mail it to: 303d@ecy.wa.gov. Or mail the data to: 303(d) Data Submittal, Steve Butkus, Department of Ecology, PO Box 47710, Olympia, WA 98504-7710.

To ask any questions about the 303(d) assessment process, including to request a copy of the recently updated state 303(d) policy, or for further assistance in submitting data, please contact Matthew Green, Department of Ecology at 303d@ecy.wa.gov or at (360) 407-6386.

EPA Issues Second Draft Regional Temperature Guidance for Public Review

On October 10, EPA issued the second draft of the Regional Temperature Guidance for public review. EPA Region 10 is seeking comments from the public on the second draft of their water temperature guidance to states and tribes in the Pacific Northwest. The guidance is intended to be used by states and tribes to establish water quality standards for temperature which will protect native salmon and trout (steelhead, bull trout and cutthroat trout).

EPA announced the following three public meetings to discuss the guidance and accept comments:

November 6 in Portland, OR 1-4:30pm - City of Portland Bldg.,

November 7 in Lacey, WA 1-4:30 - Department of Ecology

November 15 in Boise, ID - Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

See this link for more information:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/>

WA-

TER.NSF/6cb1a1df2c49e4968825688200712cb7/1442c7b1fcde026b88256c4e0074dc2f?OpenDocument

Ecology also will be proposing a rule update to Washington's Water Quality standards this fall, including an update to the temperature criteria. Washington's temperature proposal is found at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0010066.html>

Columbia River Water Withdrawals Get New Look

In an effort to better meet the water needs of Eastern Washington's diverse population, the state Department of Ecology is seeking to develop a new way for managing the waters of the Columbia River. This week Ecology announced the start to rule-making to amend the current rule governing water allocations from the river.

The goal is to develop a plan that allows additional water to be withdrawn from the Columbia for economic uses while also addressing the needs of fish. The department has already begun seeking ideas and advice from water users and others who have a stake in the Columbia River. A new rule is expected to be adopted in 2004.

General Government and Miscellaneous

Dan Wood resigns to work for state farm bureau

Earlier this week Grays Harbor County Commissioner Dan Wood announced his resignation from office effective November 30. His name is the only name on the November ballot and there are already write-in candidates ready to wage a campaign during the last three weeks.

He will be taking a job as the Government Relations Director for the Washington Farm Bureau effective November 1. Dan was a former field director for the Farm Bureau before being appointed county commissioner in 2000.

Dan is currently chair of the Rural Issues Sub-committee and an alternate to the WSAC Board of Directors.

New Brownfields Grants Available from EPA - *Proposals Due December 16*
The Brownfields Law passed January 11

authorizing a new and improved federal Brownfields Grants Program. Changes include a new cleanup grant program and a broader definition of brownfields to allow more sites to be addressed. EPA is seeking proposals for all brownfields grants.

Draft Proposal Guidelines detailing the grant programs, eligible activities and how to apply are available on EPA's website www.epa.gov/brownfields or from EPA Region 10. Final guidelines will be published this month. Phase 1 grant proposals are due December 16 (Job Training grant proposals due late December) for possible funding in Summer, 2003. For more information or to discuss a potential project/proposal please call EPA's NW Regional Brownfields Team at 1-800-424-4EPA, or email brincefield.timothy@epa.gov, morales.susan@epa.gov, or slater.mike@epa.gov. There are four com-

petitive Brownfields grant programs: Assessment Grants, the new direct Cleanup Grants, Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grants, and Job Training Grants.

Brownfields sites are "real property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." For these grants this includes "relatively low-risk" petroleum sites, mine-scarred lands and drug labs. However, Superfund National Priority List Sites are not eligible for funding.

Most units of government are eligible to apply for all Brownfields grants. Applicants for direct cleanup grants or cleanup sub-grants (from RLFs) must own the property. Applicants cannot get grant or loan funding to work on sites for which they are potentially liable under CERCLA (Superfund) section 107, as amended by

Courthouse Ramblings

The King County Department of Assessments was awarded the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Distinguished Research and Development Award October 14 at the 68th Annual International Conference on Assessment Administration in Los Angeles, California. The award is presented to a non-profit organization, education agency, private sector firm, public agency or individual for original research in property assessment, taxation or mass appraisal techniques. "This award reflects great credit upon all staff for their hard work, professional talent and commitment to the IAAO goals of fairness and equity," stated **Scott Noble**,

King County Assessor. "It is quite an honor for staff to be recognized for outstanding professional achievement by their colleagues throughout North America."

* * * * *

The new **Whitman County Auditor, Eunice Coker**, has been sworn into office. Eunice won the election to the position in the primary election and because the former auditor had resigned this summer, she took office early.

* * * * *

A retirement party is being held for **Pend Oreille County Assessor Steve Thompson** at the Newport Eagles Club, in Newport on December 15 at 5:00 p.m. Steve is

retiring at the end of the year after serving 24 years as assessor and over 30 years with the county. Please RSVP to (509) 447-4312 before December 10.

* * * * *

Our sincere sympathies go out to **former WACO Executive Director Fred Saeger** with the loss of his brother Jan Phayen Saeger Monday, October 21. The family requests any remembrances be made in the form of a donation to the Scottish Rite Shoe Program or the Childhood Language Disorders Program, Masonic Temple, Tumwater, WA 985501.

NOVEMBER COUNTY CALENDAR

- 5 State General Election. RCW 29.13.010
- 11 Veteran's Day - Legal Holiday - may vary by local ordinance. RCW 1.16.050
- 15 City and other taxing district budgets shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority. RCW 84.52.020 (Chapter 222, Laws of 1988)
- 28 Thanksgiving Day - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 29 Day following Thanksgiving - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 30 The county legislative authority and the governing body of each taxing district within the county authorized to levy taxes directly, shall certify to the county assessor the amount of taxes upon property. If the levy amount is not certified to the county assessor by this date, the assessor shall use no more than the certified levy amount for the previous year for the taxing district. RCW 84.52.070

Calendar of Events

2002 Meetings

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon,
Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21

WASPC Annual Fall Conference,
Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 18–22

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training,
Course #9370 Central Washington Uni-
versity, Ellensburg, 8 - 5 p.m.

November 20–22

ACHS, Seattle

December 3–4

WAPA Newly Elected Prosecutor Course
WAPA Conference Room, Olympia

December 5

WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13

CPO Newly Elected Officials Training—
Understanding Your New Job at the
Courthouse, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO
Credits: All newly elected officials must
attend to become certified.

December 12–13

WAPA Winter Meeting & Banquet
Crowned Plaza Hotel, Seattle.

2003 MEETINGS

February 24 – 26

County Auditors Recording Conference
Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

February 28 – March 4

NACO Legislative Conference, Washing-
ton, DC

April 3 – 4

WSAC Western District Meeting, West-
Coast Hotel, Olympia

April 10–11

WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Quality
Inn, Clarkston

May 5–8

County Auditors' Elections Conference
Yakima

May 19–22

WASPC Spring Conference,
WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

June 10–12

Washington State Association of County
Auditors' Annual Conference, Sun Moun-
tain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16–18

Washington State Association of County
Assessors Conference, Okanogan

June 16–20

Washington State Association of County
Treasurers' Annual Conference, Daven-
port Hotel, Spokane

June 23–27

Washington State Association of County
Clerks' Annual Conference, Silverdale
Hotel, Silverdale

June 24–27

WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15

NACO Annual Conference, Milwaukee
County,
Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3

Joint WACO/WSAC Conference,
Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

November 17–20

WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell's
Resort, Chelan

2004 MEETINGS

May 24–27

WASPC Spring Conference,
Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 22–25

WSAC Summer Convention,
Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20

NACO Annual Conference
Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8

WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Confer-
ence, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park,
Spokane

November 15–18

WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn,
Ocean Shores

2005 MEETINGS

May 23–26

WASPC Spring Conference,
West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, We-
natchee

July 15–19

NACO Annual Conference, City & County
of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Employment Opportunities

In our effort to hold down costs and save timber, we are asking for your help. You may submit a job opening to us for publication in the CHJ using MS Word. When submitting an article for the Courthouse Journal's Employment Opportunities section we ask that you use the following format and thank you for your help.

- ? County or Agency Name
- ? Position Title
- ? Compensation – Salary/Hourly and Amount
- ? Brief description of duties & responsibilities (4-6 lines)
- ? Minimum requirements (2-3 lines)
- ? Application requirements (Resume, Cover Letter, Application, Etc.)
- ? Where to submit application and submission deadline
- ? Where to find information (Web page, phone, etc)

COWLITZ COUNTY - INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY APPRAISER V, Assessor's Office. Starting salary is \$3,919 per month with annual increases and full benefits package. This position appraises assigned industrial land, buildings, machinery and equipment to determine its fair market value for ad valorem tax purposes. It utilizes a variety of appraising methods including cost, market and income techniques, to estimate value within acceptable accuracy standards. Position acts as a sworn deputy of the County Assessor.

Minimum requirements: 1) Bachelor's degree in business or public administration, economics, accounting or finances or related field. Four (4) years of administrative experience appraising personal and/or real property in an assessor's office appraising large commercial and industrial properties. Experience must include appraisal accounting and auditing duties, or, any combination of education, training and experience that would ensure successful execution of the duties of this position. 2) successful completion of the WA State Assessor's Certification; WA State Personal Property Appraisal Certificate; WA State Real Property Appraiser III and IV Certifications; Department of Revenue Residential Property Appraisal School - IAAO Course I or equivalent; Department of Revenue Commercial Prop-

erty Appraisal School – IAAO Course II or equivalent; Mass Appraisal for Residential of Income Producing Property - IAAO Course 301 or 302. 3) Possess and maintain a valid driver's license.

Application packet can be obtained by visiting Administrative Services at 207 Fourth Ave., North, Kelso, WA; by calling (360) 577-3065 or TDD (360) 577-3061; by faxing your request to (360) 423-9987; or by sending an email through the link in our website: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us. The application and job announcement can be downloaded from our website. *Open until filled. EOE.*

MASON COUNTY - Appraiser II – Assessor's Office. \$2,827 - \$3,283/mo. Minimum requirements: High School graduate or GED & 2 yrs appraisal experience. Must successfully pass Fundamentals of the Assessor's Office, IAAO Residential Course I, & Accreditation Exam. Valid SWDL with good driving record. County application required & available at Mason County Human Resources, 411 N Fifth St., Shelton, WA 98584; or call (360) 427-7265. Applications accepted until position is filled.

KITSAP COUNTY - Director, Community Development. Salary: \$35.11 to \$44.81/HR - \$73,028.80 to \$93,204.80/YR. Application packets available at personnel office or at www.kitsapgov.com. Required items: 1) Kitsap County application form 2) supplemental questionnaire. If you would like your technical school or college-level education considered, please attach copies of transcripts or certificate/diploma. Verification of education must be received by time of appointment. Application must be received by the personnel office on or before November 8 2002. Applications postmarked by November 8 WILL BE ACCEPTED.

This position plans, organizes, and directs the development, implementation and enforcement of County procedures and practices relating to community planning and building code and zoning and land use administration within unincorporated areas of Kitsap County. The incumbent is also responsible for preparing plans as mandated by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The Director serves as chief staff advisor to the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission and various other departments and

agencies on all planning and building matters in the County.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in planning or closely related field, Master's degree preferred, and five years of progressively responsible professional level experience in a public planning position, including three years of supervisory and managerial responsibilities; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Certification as a building official or planner is preferred.

Must be able to meet all traveling requirements of the position. If utilizing a personal or county owned vehicle in the performance of county work, must possess and maintain a valid Washington State Driver's License and the appropriate amount of automobile insurance.

CLARK COUNTY - Office Manager, Treasurer's Office. \$3,706 - \$5,234 per month. Duties: plans, organizes, coordinates, and supervises the work of Treasurer's office paraprofessional and clerical support staff; coordinates assigned activities with other divisions, departments, outside agencies, and the general public; and provides highly responsible staff assistance to the department. Primarily responsible for direct customer service-related activities associated with the Treasurer's office. Performs related work as required. Requires four years of increasingly responsible administrative experience including two years of supervisory experience. All combinations of education, experience, and training that demonstrate the ability to perform the work will be considered. All applicants must complete a Clark County application and submit it to the Human Resources department by 5 p.m. on the closing date of November 1, 2002. Postmarks are not accepted. An application and supplemental materials (i.e. answers to supplemental questions, cover letter, etc.) may be required and must be submitted with the applications. Request applications from the Clark County Human Resources Department, 1013 Franklin Street/PO Box 5000, Vancouver, Washington 98666-5000. Phone: (360) 397-2456; Fax: (360) 397-2457; TDD: (360) 397-6032; <http://www.clark.wa.gov>; Email: HRAD-MIN@clark.wa.gov; Job Hotline: (360) 397-6018.

Upcoming Events and Training

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course #9370

This course is available to death investigators including prosecutor, coroner, medical examiner and law enforcement personnel. This course will assist the investigator in preparing for the National Certification examination process.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to provide basic training in the field of medicolegal death investigation. This course is intended for individuals who are employed as investigators for medical examiner, coroner, or prosecutor/coroner offices and for law enforcement personnel who support these agencies by functioning as medicolegal death investigators. The course utilizes the training text *Medicolegal Death Investigator* by S.C. Clark, et. al. and covers the eight general areas outlined in the text. Those areas include, Interacting with Federal, State, and Local Agencies, Communicating, Interacting with Families, Investigating Deaths, Identifying and Preserving Evidence, Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities, Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge and Coping with Job-Related Stress. The concepts presented will provide a basic background to investigate most all deaths. In addition, there will be discussion of the investigation of sudden unexplained infant deaths. The course includes both didactic and practical sessions. This training is intended to prepare the medicolegal death investigator to apply for registry certification.

Registry certification for medicolegal death investigators can be obtained through The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, Inc. This is the basic level of certification. Investigators who have demonstrated the skills to successfully complete registry certification and meet the board requirements may apply for a higher level of certification in the future when this becomes available. The purpose of certification is to demonstrate that the investigator has the necessary knowledge and skills to perform medicolegal death investigations.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: November 18-22, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Preregistration is required. Please complete the CJTC 215 general application form and send to: Deb Fullerton, Death Investigator Registrar CJTC, 19010 1st

Avenue S, Seattle, 98148, Tel: (206) 835-7340 Fax: (206) 439-3865, email: dfullerton@cjtc.state.wa.us

CPO Training Opportunity – November 20 – Port Angeles

Clallam County has generously extended an invitation for county officials in other counties to participate in an upcoming leadership training they are sponsoring. Mickey Fearn, who taught this past summer at the Washington Counties Risk Pool Conference, will be presenting a workshop titled “The Leadership Moment” on November 20 in Port Angeles. There is only a \$15 Registration Fee for the workshop; however, there is a **\$100 NO SHOW FEE** if you sign up and do **not** attend. This is a great opportunity, especially for those members in the surrounding counties, to pick up four elective CPO credits and participate in a workshop that received rave reviews this past summer. The course announcement and registration form are attached to the Journal. Please register directly with Toni Gilbert, Clallam County Personnel/Risk Management, 360-417-2355 or by email totgilbert@co.clallam.wa.us.

Low Impact Development Workshop Opportunity

This workshop is presented by the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, EPA Region 10, and co-sponsors and is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2002 from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., at Fort Worden State Park.

Join local and regional experts, elected officials and their staff, and members of the engineering, planning, fire protection, realty, lending, and development communities in the West Sound as we explore the innovative stormwater management and land development practices known as low impact development. Low impact development practices include an array of small, decentralized hydrologic controls designed to improve management of stormwater and provide greater protection to streams, fish habitat and hydrologic functions of watersheds. Low impact development practices can be used to reduce the size of stormwater infrastructure, such as detention ponds.

The workshop will address the questions:

- * What is low impact development and why are conventional land develop-

ment and stormwater practices not enough to protect our water resources?

- * How does low impact development fit with regional, state, and federal stormwater mandates, land use planning and watershed planning?

- * What is the latest research on low impact development practices?

- * How are low impact development practices being used in Puget Sound and elsewhere?

- * How can local governments revise their ordinances to allow for or encourage low impact development?

- * What are the regulatory, financial and marketing challenges to the use of low impact development and how can we overcome them?

The registration fee of \$25 includes admission to all presentations, workshop materials, continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments. Call the Puget Sound Action Team for a registration form: 1-800-54-SOUND

Problem-Solving Begins With Involved Citizens and Leaders Willing to Listen and Inspire

*From the Seattle Times, October 13, 2002
by Guest columnist Daniel J. Evans*

A malaise seems to permeate our state. Partisan politicians vie with citizen nay Sayers to stall progress in the morass of process. Locally, television stations and fatuous talk-show hosts delight in screeching about waste in government. The stories are great for ratings, but woefully short on balance and accuracy. It's inappropriate now to tell racial, ethnic or religious jokes, so everyone descends on politicians.

But by constantly trashing our political leaders, we breed disrespect for our own system of government. The result is a new political landscape dotted with proposed national constitutional amendments and local initiatives all designed to protect us from "evil" politicians.

I recently reread a series of speeches I gave in 1969 titled "The Linfield Priorities." I said then, "It is about time that the citizens of this country began to take stock of themselves. It is about time that we stopped yelling 'law and order' and 'victory at any cost' at the top of our lungs, and began to assess our problems with candor and honesty. It is about time we recognized that this democracy can survive violence and protest, but it cannot survive ignorance and war and poverty and above all the citizen who says 'protect me but don't involve me.'"

It sounds dismayingly similar to today, with the addition of a nasty partisan-infected our Legislature.

Much of our current legislative gridlock grows from bitter fights for party control. In my 1973 inaugural address to the Legislature I said, "I would rather cross the aisle than cross the people." We should keep that in mind, for our current challenges require a unified effort from all of us. There are no Republican schools or Democrat highways, no liberal salmon or conservative parks. Our current malaise is not so much a lack of resources as a lack of will and leadership.

My favorite president is Teddy Roosevelt, who declared, "The presidency is a bully pulpit." He knew the genius of leadership. Speak out forcefully on important issues and use the political capital that comes with election on great causes. Roosevelt reached across the political aisle to

build winning coalitions and inspired a legion of followers.

What then should we do?

Start by being proud of who we are and what we can do. We must not divide east against west, urban against rural or citizen against government. Our strength comes from unity of effort. Agricultural bounty is a blessing to all city dwellers. Urban businesses build tax revenues that aid rural communities. Taxes we pay are the glue that holds our society together.

I guess I am a contrarian. I think government works pretty well. It put men on the moon, won the Cold War, and funds medical research. Our government built the world's best transportation arteries. It delivers water, takes away garbage and sewage, fights fires, and provides police protection. It preserves our environmental legacy in national parks and wilderness areas, and ensures clean water and clear air. Government provides a vast safety net for our people through Social Security and Medicare and is the last resort for housing, food and medicine for those unable to provide for themselves.

Is government always honest? Of course not. Is it efficient? Sometimes, but it is subject to costly legislative restraints designed to protect citizens. Is government responsive? Usually it is.

Remember, governmental employees work with the vagaries of a constantly shifting set of laws, each one supported by a majority when it was passed and few of them ever reviewed again by their legislative parents. Our system works remarkably well, considering our citizens' natural yearning for better protection, lower taxes and more services.

In this time of economic travail we should invest in our future. Good schools, great universities and a reliable transportation system are requirements for a flourishing community. I am frankly astonished by some of the objections to Referendum 51, the transportation proposal. Some were furious on hearing that it might take up to 30 years to complete major transportation networks, which they would not be around to use. We should all remember that the freeways we drive today were built and paid for by generations past. Almost all of our public investments come from an unbroken stream of tax investment made by each generation to benefit the next.

Some environmental groups oppose

Referendum 51 because not enough transit money is included. They epitomize those misguided activists who let the perfect become the enemy of the good. If we defeat Referendum 51, the Legislature is highly unlikely to try again, and we will be left with no investment whatsoever to resolve our traffic mess.

Is this measure perfect? No. Will it instantly relieve traffic congestion? No. Is it a beginning, will it put construction crews to work, and reassert our confidence in our future? Yes, and that is why it should be supported.

Instead of wringing our hands over a \$2-billion budget gap, we should focus on how we build a more secure future. That future depends on education. Our schools are bulging with students, and high school graduating classes will reach an all-time high in 2008. We cannot give these graduates opportunity for higher education. There is no room and no budget.

The governor and Legislature should invest now in a major capital plan to prepare places for these students. They should initiate planning now for a dependable revenue source to create the best educational system in the nation from kindergarten through graduate school.

Our future no longer depends on fish and lumber. Brains are our new natural resource and we better start investing now. There is no better way to shorten a recession and build a prosperous future than making a long-term investment in education now.

No combination of taxes or budget cuts will fill the gap between people's desire for services and their willingness to pay. Our state is blessed with an army of volunteers. We contribute time and money with extraordinary generosity. United Way of King County is the most successful in the nation. The largest foundation in the world and several of the most important volunteer organizations are headquartered here. We should take pride in these remarkable volunteer successes. Let's apply those same talents to government.

Thirty years ago, we lowered the voting age to 18. Now our young, with far more at stake in the future of our democracy than their elders, fail to participate. Many substitute protest marches for the hard work of political change. The prime dictionary definition of politics is "the art

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and science of government." To maintain a free society we must participate in politics. That makes all of us politicians. Nothing would invigorate our democracy more than a flood of youthful volunteers seeking change.

My advice to you is simple. If you are dismayed by current policies, work to change them. Write letters, appear before governmental bodies, contact legislators. If you are unhappy with incumbent officeholders, work and vote to turn them out. Run for office.

Above all, heed the admonition of Teddy Roosevelt: "Know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spend yourself in a worthy cause. At the best, know the triumph of high achievement, and at worst, if failing, fail while daring greatly so your place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Civic, city and civil all come from the same Latin root — *civis*, meaning "member of a community, citizen." If we are to succeed as a great community and state, then we must all be members of the community. If we are to be true citizens, then we must do more than vote. We must be continuing active participants in the civic arena.

Once again, let us engage in civil debate. Let us join together in the generosity of volunteerism. Let us seek progress jointly rather than obstruction separately.

The leaders of tomorrow will not be those talk-show hosts who cater to the base emotions of people, or the politicians who blithely promise what they know they cannot deliver. It will not be those rigid environmentalists who will see you in court if they don't get all they seek. Nor will it be the business leader who always skirts the edge of appropriate behavior.

Leadership must come from those who have the vision to see tomorrow, the intelligence to plan wisely and the civility to listen to others.

Daniel J. Evans served as Washington governor from 1965 to 1977, as president of The Evergreen State College in Olympia from 1977 to 1983, and as U.S. senator from 1983 to 1989. He is a member of the University of Washington Board of Regents and chairman of Daniel J. Evans Associates.

County Budget Crunch 'For Real'; Task Force Will Take Hard Look

From the Seattle Times by Staff Reporter John Zebrowski, October 20, 2002

After his budget speech last week, King County Executive Ron Sims was asked about what could be expected in 2004, after two years of squeezing more than \$90 million out of the budget.

The question was about criminal justice, by far the fastest-growing part of the county's \$495 million operating budget.

"Next year, we're going to be far more aggressive," he said.

The words were tough, but they obscured how difficult this has become. Ask allies and political opponents of Sims and they'll agree that the problems facing King County are unprecedented for such a formerly flush government. They may argue over whether the root of the problem is too little revenue or too much spending, but the consensus is clear: Without major changes, King County soon won't be able to fulfill its basic duties.

"This is for real," said Richard Davis, president of the nonpartisan Washington Research Council, which has studied King County's budget woes. "The county's lost a significant share of its tax base, there are caps on major revenue sources and there are a lot of (services) they're the only government to deliver. This is quickly getting perilous."

Toward the end of his speech last week, Sims announced he would create a task force charged with coming up with ideas to get King County out of the mess. The group, to be led by two prominent businessmen, has been promised "unfettered, unmitigated" access by Sims to every corner of the county's operations. The time has come, he said, for outside eyes to search the operating budget for new ways to deliver services, for places to scale back and, possibly, for new forms of revenue.

"We'll be healthier and better off from their work," Sims said.

Doing things differently

This isn't the first time an elected official has assembled a panel of luminaries to find a nonpartisan solution to a vexing problem. The political landscape is littered with the unheeded recommendations of Grace Commissions (a Reagan administra-

tion effort to root out government waste) and Social Security task forces. They often find solutions no politician could embrace and be confident of re-election.

It's been only a few months since a task force on the county's parks offered suggestions to make the system work with less revenue. Many of the proposals — transferring many parks to suburban cities, raising fees at others and considering selling naming rights where appropriate — have been adopted by Sims.

It is this model that Sims wants the budget task force to follow.

In praising the parks group, Steve Call, Sims' budget director, hints at one major plus to the task-force approach. "In terms of our own internal constituencies — those on the council, other elected officials, even our own department heads — it helped convince them," he said. "It provides a lot of momentum to take a hard look at doing things differently."

A daunting assignment

The task force's lineup won't be announced for at least several days. There will be 12 members in all, a group drawn from business, finance, labor, law and politics (but no elected officials). Leading it will be Bob Wallace, an Eastside real-estate investor, and John Warner, a retired senior Boeing executive.

Wallace, who has served on task forces and civic boards for three decades, said the problem at hand is so daunting he finds himself questioning his own judgment in accepting the appointment.

"Every time a government faces a crunch, they're always able to pull a rabbit out of a hat, to find a way to escape," he said. "There will be no miracles here. There aren't any more rabbits."

Meeting about twice a month, the group will make its way through just about every facet of the operational budget. Its goal is to prioritize the services the county provides and figure out what the county's job should be. Members will tour county facilities, pore through books and ledgers, run calculations and study ways other governments work.

Although the general fund is only a small part of the county's entire \$3.18 billion budget, it's the one in dire trouble. Included in it are human services, parks, jails, the Sheriff's Office, prosecutor, public defenders, elections, assessors, the County Council and executive branch,

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courts and food inspection.

Add this to labor costs that increased by double digits for much of the 1990s, and the county is facing a crisis.

The general fund gets its revenue from sales and property taxes, a combination little changed since the county was founded 150 years ago. The fund can't legally take money from bond measures passed to pay for new roads or wastewater treatment. State law mandates the county provide a criminal-justice system. Human services and parks are discretionary.

A poor economy has depressed sales-tax revenue. Initiative 747, a statewide measure passed two years ago without a majority of King County voters, has limited property-tax increases to 1 percent a year, plus some extra for new construction.

"I don't think people fully understand how bad it is," Wallace said. "None of the choices we're going to look at will be pleasant."

The fixes will likely involve either new ways to collect revenue — a utility tax or a ballot measure to raise property taxes — or to cut expenses, which, when it comes to the general fund, means employees, their salaries and benefits. While 73 percent of the 2003 budget will be spent on criminal justice, most of that money goes toward personnel.

Wallace said he and the others on the task force will have no preconceived notions about what would solve the crisis.

Publicizing the problem

Council Councilman Larry Phillips, D-Seattle, the chair of the budget committee and a strong advocate of asking voters to approve some type of tax increase, said he worries that without any new streams of revenue, choices get reduced to deciding which employees to fire.

"We need to be careful about what we're willing to accept," he said. "We're already cut down pretty much to the core. Pretty soon the core units in our government are going to be forced to turn on one another."

Few politicians are excited about proposing cuts to the Sheriff's Office, courts or the prosecutor. Davis said one benefit of a task force is that it starts getting people used to hearing what needs to be done.

But the problem with such commissions is that even when they're effective, it's often only temporary.

"Too many times, people go in, make some suggestions, a few problems get solved and then things go on pretty much as before," he said. "It could be even harder for Sims because if we start getting into compensation of workers, we're involving his core constituency."

Kathy Lambert, a Republican council member from Redmond, said having an outside group assess the county's problems would at least raise the profile of a crisis the average voter isn't fixated on at the moment.

"Somebody's got to stand up and say the emperor has no clothes," she said. "The task force can do that job."